



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEXICAN NATIONAL CONVICTED OF POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

PHOENIX - Jose Antonio Verdugo-Munoz was found guilty by a federal jury here of Possession with the Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. The case was tried before U.S. District Court Judge Susan R. Bolton from January 13-18, 2005.

The evidence at trial showed that Verdugo-Munoz possessed two pounds of methamphetamine for distribution on November 6, 2003; it was in his car in the parking lot at a Mexican Seafood restaurant in Phoenix. He had set up a meeting to deliver the methamphetamine to an individual who, in turn, distributed methamphetamine in Arizona and Virginia. Verdugo-Munoz was arrested before he could do deliver the methamphetamine. The case arose from an investigation in Eastern Virginia involving the execution of search and arrest warrants in the Phoenix area. Phoenix Division DEA agents assisted in the execution of the warrants which led to the investigation and arrest of Verdugo-Munoz.

Sentencing is set before Judge Susan R. Bolton on April 10, 2006. A conviction for Possession with the Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$ 4,000,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Bolton will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution was handled by Brian G. Larson, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-1161-PHX-SRB
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-014(Verdugo-Munoz)

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